

For over 30 years, Rev. Bailey served as pastor at St. Andrew Baptist Church in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Under his leadership and spiritual guidance, the congregation grew both in numbers and in Spirit. Rev. Bailey has served as a guest revivalist for citywide and local church revivals in Douglassville, Texas and across the nation. A published author, Rev. Bailey has released several books along with recorded music and preaching CD's. During his tenure, Rev. Bailey oversaw renovations to the sanctuary and fellowship hall to better serve the needs of the congregation. This included increasing accessibility through building handicap bathrooms. Additionally, many ministries have grown from his leadership and passion for the Lord.

From the very beginning, he dedicated his 11 children to God, four of which went on to become ordained reverends themselves, including my pastor Dr. Bertrand M. Bailey, Jr. He is survived by his wife, of over 41 years, Mrs. Juandalyn J. Bailey and their children: Bertricia, Bertrand Jr., Bertrain, Bertheophilus, Bertshalyn, Bertjuanette, Bertholomew, BerTabitha, Bertrick, and BerThaddaeus, Bertrina (deceased) and his brother, Samuel L. Bailey; 17 grandchildren; a host of nieces and nephews. Although he has returned to his Heavenly Home, the works and seeds he planted on Earth continue to grow and prosper. And we are all better people having known him and stood in his light.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. PAYNE. There was a time when moments of silence, and thoughts and prayers meant something. That time has long passed.

The Columbine High School massacre was nearly two decades ago. Sandy Hook was over five years ago. The Sutherland Springs and Las Vegas shootings were last year. Yet Congress did nothing to end gun violence in the United States.

How many lives must be sacrificed at the altar of the gun lobby before Congress says enough is enough?

Mass shootings have become all too common, and ordinary acts of violence are perpetrated on the streets every day. In fact, more Americans have died from guns in the United States since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated than in all the wars this country has fought—starting with the American Revolution.

Each day in this country, ninety-six Americans are killed with guns. Seven of those people are children and teenagers. And Black men are thirteen times more likely than a white man to be shot and killed with a gun.

Gun safety is a civil rights issue. It is a human rights issue.

Congress needs to take immediate action on the dozens of reasonable gun-safety bills pending in this legislative body. We must ban semiautomatic assault weapons. We must stop the online sale of bulk ammunition. And we need to strengthen and mandate universal background checks.

But there's something else Congress can and must do. Congress must find creative

ways to encourage people in the United States to voluntarily disarm. Research has shown that greater numbers of firearms result in higher numbers of firearm-related deaths.

Over the past two weeks, reports and viral videos have shown many law-abiding gun owners expressing buyers' remorse and destroying their firearms. There is a movement underway in this country among gun owners to purge their firearms—particularly semiautomatic assault weapons—before they can be used to harm people.

That's why I introduced the Safer Neighborhoods Gun Buyback Act of 2017 (H.R. 3613) last year—to encourage people to voluntarily disarm. Gun buyback programs have proven their worth in communities across the United States. Law enforcement supports safe gun buyback programs. And research has shown that fewer guns means fewer gun deaths. By providing grants to fund gun buyback programs, Congress can incentivize Americans to do the right thing and safely dispose of their semiautomatic assault weapons.

There are dozens of gun safety bills active in this body that would make our streets, our schools, and our homes safer. It's time for us to declare never again. Congress cannot continue to do nothing. People are dying. We must do better by our children.

RECOGNIZING “BLACK JANUARY” AND THE KHOJALY MASSACRE

HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate two tragic events in Azerbaijani history. 2018 marks the 28th anniversary of the “Black January” killings and the 26th anniversary of the Khojaly massacre.

On January 19, 1990, the U.S.S.R. Supreme Soviet Presidium declared a state of emergency in response to the growing national independence movement in Azerbaijan, and Soviet troops moved into the Azerbaijani capital of Baku. They fired indiscriminately at peaceful demonstrators, and destroyed critical infrastructure, like medical facilities. When Soviet troops left the city on January 20, more than 130 people were dead, over 700 were injured, 841 were arrested, and five were missing. Human Rights Watch released a report on the incident, later named Black January, stated that, “indeed the violence used by the Soviet Army on the night of January 19–20 constitutes an exercise in collective punishment. The punishment inflicted on Baku by Soviet soldiers may have been intended as a warning to nationalists, not only in Azerbaijan, but in other Republics of the Soviet Union.”

On February 26, 1992, Armenian troops descended on the town of Khojaly, located in the Nagorno-Karabakh region of Azerbaijan. During their advance, Armenian armed forces massacred over 600 unarmed people, including 106 women and 83 children, and left less than 2,000 survivors. Hundreds more became disabled due to their horrific injuries. More than one hundred children lost a parent and 25 children lost both parents. At least 8 families were completely killed. The Armenia-Azerbaijan conflict remains unresolved.

In spite of these tragedies, Azerbaijan has emerged as an independent nation with a

growing economy. It is also a strong ally of the United States; U.S.-Azerbaijani cooperation efforts include playing a leadership role in non-proliferation issues; providing troops to serve shoulder-to-shoulder with U.S. forces in Kosovo, Iraq, and Afghanistan; allowing transit of non-lethal equipment used by coalition forces through Azerbaijan to Afghanistan; construction of the Southern Gas Corridor from the Caspian Sea to Italy, thereby providing Europe with an alternative to Russian energy sources; and supplying 40 percent of Israel's oil. Azerbaijan also has a thriving Jewish community and is an ally of America's ally Israel.

I urge my colleagues to recognize the sacrifices of the Azerbaijani people in their steps toward a free market economy and democracy, and to work together to facilitate peace in the Azerbaijan-Armenia conflict.

HONORING THE YEARS OF SERVICE OF THE USS “IOWA” TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

HON. NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation to commend the USS *Iowa* for her seventy-five years of service to the United States of America; Saturday, February 24, will be her 75th anniversary:

Whereas the USS *Iowa* is a national treasure to the United States, having protected the country during both World War II, and the Korean War; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* served our country over fifty years and designated as the “World's Greatest Naval Ship”; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* has welcomed and escorted our nation's Commander in Chief on many occasions, no other battleship has been host to more U.S. Presidents than the *Iowa*; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* has earned fourteen different ribbons and received numerous Command Excellence Awards over her fifty years of service; and

Whereas the USS *Iowa* continues to serve the United States as a living monument that highlights our nation's rich naval history; and

Whereas seventy-five years of continued service deserves the highest marks; and

Now, therefore, I commend the USS *Iowa* and all who served and continue to serve on this beautiful vessel, for seventy-five honorable years.

REMEMBERING THE KHOJALY TRAGEDY

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 26, 2018

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise today because Azerbaijan has been a reliable friend and valuable partner of the United States, and it is appropriate for Congress to commemorate the victims of the Khojaly tragedy as our Azerbaijani friends mark the 26th anniversary of the event.